

**DURHAM CULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD**  
Office of Economic and Workforce Development Conference Room  
Wednesday, March 19, 2014, 3:15pm.

**Members Present:**

☐ Zoila Airall  
☒ Daniel Ellison  
☐ Sherry DeVries  
☒ Pamela Green  
☒ Mark Hough  
☒ Medina Johnson  
☒ Frank Konhaus  
☒ Renee Leverty  
☐ Ashley Mattheis  
☒ Cynthia Mebane-Watts  
☒ Chris Ogden  
☒ Lou Rollins

**OEWD Staff Present:**

☐ Grace Dzidzienyo  
☒ Peter Coyle

**Also present:**

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Chair Renee Leverty called the meeting to order at 3:25pm.

Dan Ellison moved to approve the January 15, 2014 Board meeting minutes. Chris Ogden seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Ellison reported that his Duke University students are contacting non-profit arts organizations to set up an networking even on April 15 for board members and staffs of those organization The organizations also will be surveyed and there will be an assessment of materials they provide.

Peter Coyle Reported that the contracts for City acceptance of the Civil Rights Mural and the Al Frega Sculpture at CCB Plaza will be on the agenda for the Apr 7 City Council meeting.

Leverty recommended that The RFP terms for the temporary public art process be referred to the Public Art Committee and that Coyle work with the committee to draft an RFP. The Board agreed.

Leverty and Coyle reported that discussions, involving Liberty Arts and other organizations, have begun about developing a plan for affordable artist live/work spaces in Durham. She and Coyle, along with Jessica Moore (a member of the Public Art Committee) will be among those participating in discussions to strategize how to move forward. The Cordoba Building, the Durham County Social Services Building and the Holloway Street School are among possible locations to evaluate and consider for proposals. Liberty Arts has contacted ArtSpace, a Minneapolis non-profit organization specializing in creating these kind of spaces, to get information about possible consulting for a feasibility study.

Pamela Green reported that the Mural Committee has been in contact with Brenda Miller Holmes about her contract and about issues involving permissions for scaffolding at the site. Coyle reported that Holmes and her attorney have reached agreement with the city on contract terms and that he has provided Holmes with a contact to assist her in getting necessary approvals for the scaffolding.

Coyle reminder the board that 6 members' terms will expire on June 30. The six are Sherry DeVries, Pamela Green, Mark Hough, Frank Konhaus, Ashley Mattheis and Cynthia Mebane-Watts. Of those DeVries, Green and Mattheis have served 2 consecutive terms and are not eligible for reappointment to another consecutive term. Applications for reappointment and for new member appointments will be available in late April. Coyle will notify the board as soon as the release date for applications and the deadline to apply are set.

Cynthia Mebane-Watts reported that the Festivals Committee has been meeting and has developed a survey which will be sent to approximately 30 local festival sponsors. She discussed the survey questions and will give feedback to the Duke student intern who is designing the survey. The process will begin with three organizations which have agreed to be the test cases for the survey. After their surveys and suggestions have been analyzed a final version of the survey will be sent to all organizations on the list.

Mebane Watts reported that she is looking at how other cities support festivals and that the committee is working on a date and structure for an event to bring festival sponsors together for discussions. The focus will be on what kinds of support can be offered. She noted a need to work on what can be done to make the Durham Athletic park more affordable as a festival venue.

Ogden reported that the original idea, originally explored Frank Konhaus, Ashley Mattheis, and him, of a "What's Near Me" mobile application, that would include public art, events, restaurants, and other points of interest does not appear practical given Durham's MSA. Our population is not considered large enough to support data updates by an "App" such as "Spotted by Locals." While there may be some synergies possible

with the Durham Convention & Visitors Bureau upcoming “Fresh Daily” marketing campaign, we’ll have to see if their outward focus on attracting new visitors to the area will have crossover to serve existing Durham residents and folks who work here.

Ogden shared that, in a complementary effort, Public Art Committee member Heather Gordon has taken the lead on exploring how best to get Durham’s public art inventory online. Gordon did a great job identifying possible database-driven software packages, with the open source Collective Access seeming the most promising. However, Ogden noted that with less than 75 pieces of public art currently identified, and given that that number changes very slowly, a complex software system may not be needed at this time. As a first step measure, Gordon volunteered to create an easy to create (and maintain) Wordpress site and will be coordinating with Coyle to get a hosting account and domain name(s) through the City. As an input into the design and display of the information, Ogden asked the larger question of who would be the primary target audience for the inventory? He noted that he and Mattheis did not see the need for an “academic/scholarly” site, but rather a user-friendly site for residents and visitors.

Ogden reported that to make the listing have broader appeal, Public Art Committee member Kathy Bartlett is working to “fill in the blanks” of the existing inventory and to identify missing items. He also shared that he has also been working on another option to add more relevant information to help the inventory reach a critical mass. Ogden met with Gary Kuber about his OpenDurham.org project which has a deep collection of Durham cultural history, organized geographically by buildings and neighborhoods. Kuber seemed open to sharing their information, possibly extending their site to include Durham public art, and maybe even more. Ogden also met with Victoria Szabo at Duke University, who is working on art and science interconnections with location tagging (GIS). He discussed with her the possibilities for the public art inventory project, OpenDurham, and Duke’s GIS Durham initiatives to collaborate. Ogden also shared the idea with Wesley Hogan of Duke’s Center for Documentary studies. All the parties seemed interested and amenable to explore next steps. Ogden asked the Board what they felt about pursuing such a longer-term project for a more broad arts inventory. The Board’s consensus was very favorable and supportive.

The meeting adjourned at 5:05 pm.